



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1870-12-22

**Letter from [John Muir] to Mrs. [Jeanne C.] Carr, [1870] Dec 22.**

John Muir

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**Recommended Citation**

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of Nov 19<sup>th</sup> is reserved directed  
to the "Tuolumne River etc"

"You are glad that I am kindly  
disposed towards South America but  
a year is a long time, etc" but  
to me a Yosemite year is a very  
little measure of time or rather  
a measureless & formless mass of time  
which can in no manner be geomet-  
rically or arithmetically dealt with  
but Mrs Carr, why do you wish  
to cut me from California &  
grasp me among the groves of the  
Purns. Please write the reason  
This Pacific sunshine is hard  
to leave, if clouds are allowed to  
go a rapping & visiting where they please  
I think that unbodied I will be found  
wallowing in California light

If the bulbs were lost I will  
procure some more for you if  
you do not send me up the  
Amazon before next fall

Near La Grange, Cal  
Dec 22<sup>d</sup> [1870]

Dear Mrs Carr,

It is so long since  
I have heard from you that I begin  
to think you have sent a letter to  
Yosemite. I am feeling lonely  
again & require a word from  
you.

Some time ago Mr Hutchings  
wrote me saying that he would re-  
quire my Shingle Cabin for his sister  
& so I am homeless again. I expected  
to pass the winter there writing sketching  
etc & in making exploratory raids  
back over the mountains in the snow  
but Mr Hutchings jumping my nest  
after expressly promising to keep it  
for me, has broken my pleasant lot  
of plans. I am at work making new  
ones. Here it is not that Mr Hutchings

owes me money, & that I have a lot of loose notes & outline sketches to work up. I should set out for S. America at once. As it is I shall very likely remain where I am for a few months & return to the mountains in the Spring. I wish in particular to trace some of the upper Yosemite streams farther & more carefully than I have yet done & I shall dip yet once more into the fatherless grandeur of the Valley - - -

I am in comfortable quarters at present within eight hours of the Tiolumne, on a smooth level once the bottom of a shallow lake-like expansion of the rain where it leaves the slopes

Evening purple on the mtns seen through an ample gap up the Tiolumne is of terrestrial beauty, the purest & best, the cheek gold of

The plain composites will soon be lighted in the sundays of Spring, deepening & glowing yet brighter as it spreads away over the spheres & fluted rock masses of this old ocean bed - You must not fail to see the April gold of the foreground - - -

I send her with a letter to Mrs. Yelverton in your care as you will be likely to know where she is. I have just read a letter which she left for me at Snelling giving an account of her fearful perils in the snow. It seems strange to me that I should not have known & felt her anguish in that terrible night, even at this distance. She told me that I ought to wait & guide her out, & I feel a kind of guiltiness in not doing so

Since writing the above, Yours